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## BOOK REVIEWS

MEN AND BOOKS FAMOUS IN THE LAW, by Frederick C. Hicks. (Rochester, N. Y.: The Lawyers Cooperative Publishing Co., 1921, pp. 259.)

The tracing of every legal principle to its original source in judicial precedent has left the law student of the present day sadly lacking in a knowledge of the life and social development out of which the common law has grown. Such a background cannot be obtained from adjudicated cases alone and a just valuation and intelligent application of the principles involved must be inseparably interwoven with the names of those famous in the chronicles of the law. The influence which the great commentaries, institutes and other authoritative pronouncements of individuals have had in moulding the true character and scope of common law doctrines as well as the true method and spirit of their application, cannot be overestimated. Their treatment by Professor Hicks "as truly biographical documents in the lives of their authors", is pleasing in that it lends an element of human interest which could not exist in a mere bibliography. The present tendency to relegate these works as savoring of pedantry and antiquity is successfully, if unwittingly, combatted by the author in portraying the numerous vicissitudes they encountered and overcame and the tremendous influence they exerted as formative instruments.

In turn Cowell, Littleton, Coke, Kent, Livingston and Wheaton are discussed with no attempt at strict biographical precision but in each case the events leading up to the preparation and publication of their works are recounted, as are the subsequent histories of these works. The idea is constantly borne in mind that "while they influenced the world through their books, their own lives were often very much affected by them".

The stories, in so far as possible, are told in the words of the writers themselves or their contemporaries which lends an added historic value to the collection. Excerpts from several of the books discussed are included and of particular interest are Chancellor Kent's notes to Livingston's Penal Code.

The author has not attempted a minute or exhaustive treatment of his subject and as "merely impressionistic sketches of men and books famous in the law, with glimpses here and there of the events and people of the time in which the books were written, published and read", it is in every way satisfactory, and it is to be hoped that a second volume dealing with others who have helped build the structure of legal literature, will be forthcoming.

J. WHITCOMB WELCH.

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STORY ON EQUITY JURISPRUDENCE, Third English Edition, by A. E. Randall. (London: Sweet and Maxwell, Limited, 1920, pp. XXXVII, 671.)

Since the appearance of Justice Story's work on Equity Jurisprudence almost a century ago, this work has been recognized as a classic of the law in both America and England. His interpretation of the equity jurisdiction ranks with his work in building up the admiralty law of the United States; and with his service on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States as coadjutor of Chief Justice Marshall in interpreting the powers of the Federal government as granted to it by the States in the Constitution of the United States.